

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08638 231728Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

-----232346Z 008712 /70

R 231547Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5334

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NY

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, EG

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DEL VISITS CAIRO

1. ACCORDING TO CAIRO PRESS, DEL FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) COMPOSED OF DR SOSIAL FROM TURKEY AND MS JANE RAY FROM GREAT BRITAIN ARRIVED IN CAIRO MAY 9. SOSIAL IS PROF OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AT ANKARA UNIV AND MS RAY IS SECRETARY OF AI. VISIT REPORTEDLY ARRANGED IN COORDINATION WITH SECRETARIAT OF ARAB LAWYERS FEDERATION.

2. DURING VISIT DEL MET WITH DEAN OF AIN SHAMS LAW SCHOOL DR SULAIMAN AL TAHHAWI, PRES OF THE PRESS SYNDICATE YOUSUF SIBAI, PRES OF ICATU, MINS OF JUSTICE AND INFORMATION AND LIBERTIES COMMITTEE OF EGYPTIAN BAR ASSOCIATION. MINISTERS REPORTEDLY AFFIRMED TO DEL THAT ALL CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN EGYPT WERE CLOSED IN 1971 AND THAT EVERY DEFENDANT NOW HAS RIGHT TO DEFEND HIMSELF IN COURTS. DEL ATTENDED A COURT SESSION AND VISITED TWO PRISONERS IN JAILS.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 08638 231728Z

3. ON MAY 12 DR SOSIAL HAD PRESS CONF IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO GOE FOR WELCOMING VISIT AND SAID AI WAS CONSIDERING OPENING AN OFFICE IN CAIRO (PRESUMABLY A REGIONAL OFFICE). HE ALSO SAID AI CONSIDERS 1977 THE YEAR OF "PRISONERS OF OPINION" THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND IT WILL SUBMIT MEMO TO UN ON DEC 10 CALLING FOR RELEASE OF ALL "PRISONERS OF OPINION" WHICH NUMBER ABOUT 5,000, INCLUDING 500 IN THE ME.

4. DEL DID NOT CONTACT BRITISH EMBASSY, BUT DR SOSIAL DID
PAY COURTESY CALL ON TURKISH CHARGE DURING WHICH HE HAD SAID
HE "IMPRESSED" WITH CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION IN EGYPT.
CHARGE SAID AL DEL HAD COME TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATION THAT THERE
ARE 130 "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN JAIL IN EGYPT AND DEL HAD
BEEN ABLE TO INTERVIEW TWO OF THEM. THESE PRISONERS ARE
ALLEGEDLY NOT RELATED TO JAN 77 RIOTS. ACCORDING TO TURKISH
CHARGE AI WILL ISSUE AN APPEAL FOR THE RELEASE OF THESE
PRISONERS ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE
PUBLIC OR PRIVATE.

5. COMMENT: WE UNAWARE OF ANY "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN EGYPTIAN
PRISONS IF AI DEFINITION MEANS THEY IMPRISONED WITHOUT
TRIAL BY LEGALLY CONSITUTED COURT AND DULY CONVICTED.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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